

18 arrested in Boone meth raid

8:32 am - May 31, 2012 — Updated: 8:32 am - May 31, 2012

By Greg Eckstrom

Boone News-Republican

BOONE — An investigation by the Boone Police Department and Boone County Sheriff's Department with the Central Iowa Drug Task Force (CIDTF) culminated in 18 felony arrests last Friday, all on charges of taking part in the manufacturing of methamphetamine at a house in Boone. John Wesley Wallace, 1409 11th St., in Boone, is being held on \$100,000 cash-only bond for charges of manufacturing methamphetamine as well as transfer/receiving of pseudoephedrine, Class B and Class C felonies, respectfully.

Seventeen others are being held in Boone County Jail on \$25,000 cash-only bonds for transfer/receiving of pseudoephedrine, a Class C felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine of at least \$1,000, but no more than \$10,000, for providing pseudoephedrine to Wallace. These charged include: Wesley Iven Elliott, 51, of Boone; Jeffery Alan Bolton, 48, of Boone; Judd Emanuel Bork, 42, of Boone; David Michael Lee, 28, of Ogden; Timothy Brian Bugger, 41, of Boone; Spring Hinman, 36, of Boone; Cynthia Devoogd, of Boone; Dennis Ray Devoogd, 52, of Boone; Jerad Allen Smith, 33, of Boone; Adam Wayne Gildea, 33, of Stanhope; Jason John Martin, 42, of Ogden; Donovan Lee Erickson, 23, of Boone; Brent Anson Spencer, 38, of Boone; Rodney Michael Miller, 42, of Boone; Kara Jean Curry, 27, of Boone; Caitlin Suzanne Bauer, 23, of Ogden; and Roger Lee Low, 45, of Stratford.

The investigation followed a lengthy investigation, which led up to search warrants on individuals involved in January, Boone police officer Cory J. Rose said. According to an application for a search warrant by Rose, monitoring of those involved in the supplying of pseudoephedrine began as far back as September. The investigation began, Rose said, as a result of several different factors. "It was a combination of us suspecting it through pseudo purchase records and a couple different anonymous tips," he said.

Surveillance on the house and on vehicles and individuals who frequented the house began, and incidents in which individuals began supplying pseudoephedrine to Wallace began being documented. According to records of the investigation included in the search warrant, the individuals involved had 386 documented purchases between them in the past several years, a majority of the purchases from 2011 to present.

Wallace, who received the stiffest charge in the investigation, has a misdemeanor conviction for possession of methamphetamine in Boone County in October of 2002, and a misdemeanor conviction for possession of methamphetamine – second offense in Boone County in March of 2004. Nine of the other suspects arrested – Gildea, Lee, Bauer, Spencer, Bork, Hinman, Bugger, Elliott and Low – are noted in the arrest warrant as having previous drug convictions.

After the evidence had been compiled, Rose said the CIDTF formed two teams on Friday and started with their arrests. "We just ... went out and started hunting for them," Rose said. "It's the biggest round-up I've done since I've been here."

Boone Police Chief Bill Skare said he can't recall a larger group of arrests on one day. "It's a combination of excellent work by the task force, particularly investigator Rose and investigator (Cole) Hoffman from the sheriff's office," Skare said. "I think it shows the methamphetamine problem that, unfortunately, we still have in the city of Boone. It was a busy day."

In addition to the arrests, through the course of the investigation, more than 50 one-pot methamphetamine labs were confiscated, neutralized and disposed of, or kept for evidence. Skare and Rose said even providing pseudoephedrine to others for the manufacturing of methamphetamine is a Class C felony – punishable by up to 10 years in jail – and that the city and county will continue to work together to follow up all tips they receive from the public.